(ASSEMBLY BILL No. 7.)

An Act respecting Public Health.

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislature of Quebec, enacts as follows:

Composition of the board.

1. Seven persons may be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to form a Board of Health in the Province under the name of the "Quebec Provincial Board of Health" whose duty shall be to occupy itself with everything which concerns the public health in this Province.

Four at least of these persons must be physicians whose names are entered upon the register, according to the law respecting medicime and surgery, and having at least five years practice.

2. Four of the members of the Board may be appointed for a term of two years, and three others for a term of three years.

Subsequent appointments are made for a term of three years.

Any member retiring from office may be re-appointed.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor appoints the chairman and the secretary of the Board.

4. The chairman shall be allowed the annual sum of four hundred dollars for his services.

The members of the Board including the chairman, shall receive five dollars per day for each meeting of the Board, in addition to their travelling and other necessary expenses.

The secretary receives a salary not exceeding fifteen hundred dollars per annum.

The expenses of the Board shall be paid out of the moneys from time to time appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose.

The Board shall have the power to appoint an analyst and a sanitary engineer without a fixed salary, but with such remuneration as may be proportionate to the amount of work required of them.

Such officials shall not be members of the Board.

Duties of the Board.

5. It is the duty of the Provincial Board of Health:

1. To make a special study of the vital statistics of the Province, and to endeavor to apply, in an intelligent and useful manner, all the facts collected respecting mortality and disease;

2. To make sanitary investigations and inquiries into the causes of disease and especially of epidemics, into the causes of death, and the effect which the employment, conditions, habits and other circumstances of the people may have upon their health;

3. To establish such rules as they think fit for the prevention as far as possible or the mitigation of such epidemic, endemic or contagious diseases, with power to revoke, renew or alter any such regulation, or substitute any new regulations as to them appears expedient;

4. To superintend the formation of local boards of health, to keep a register of such local boards and of the names of the members thereof, and to inquire into the measures which are being taken by such local boards of health for the limitation of any existing dangerous, contagious or infectious disease or the removal of bad sanitary conditions, in virtue of the powers conferred upon such local boards of health by any public health act, or by the Municipal Code or special charters; and, should it appear that the said powers are not being taken and that the said powers are not being enforced, in the interests of the public health, to require the local board to exercise and enforce any of the said powers, which in the opinion of the Provincial Board the urgency of the case demands;

Where the local board, having been thereto required in writing by the Provincial Board, neglects or refuses to exercise their powers, during a delay of ten days, the Provincial Board may, with the approval of the Minister of the Deparment under which the Board is acting for the time being, exercise and enforce, at the expense of the municipality, any of the powers of local boards which under the circumstances they may think necessary.

5. To advise when required or when it deems it expedient the officers of the government, and local boards of health, respecting the public health and upon the measures to be taken to protect it, and also the position, drainage, water-supply, the means of disposing of excreta, the heating and ventilation of public institutions and public buildings, the position and drainage of cemeteries, as also upon the disposal of excreta and sanitary conditions generally of private institutions and schools.

6. In any municipality in which there is a local board of health appointed in virtue of its charter or of the

Municipal Code or of the town corporations' general clauses' act, such board of health shall be the local board of health for the purposes of this act.

6. The mayor or other head of the municipal corporation of any place, after being notified in writing by the Provincial Board of Health, shall call a special meeting of the council or other muncipal corporation of such place over which he presides, at which meeting not less than three persons, resident within the limits of their respective jurisdictions, shall be nominated to be the "Local Board of Health" for such place.

7. The Provincial Board, from time to time, and especially when any epidemic, endemic or contagious disease is prevalent in any portion of the Province, shall cause to be distributed to the public by means of the press, and to the local boards of health, health officers, municipal councils or public schools and to the clergy, by means of circulars or in any other way deemed advisable in the interests of the public health, writings upon hygiene and practical and special information upon the means of preventing contagious and infectious diseases and upon their spread.

Meetings of the Board.

8. The board meets quarterly or oftener in the city of Quebec or in the city of Montreal, as shall by the Board be deemed necessary.

Four members of the Board shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

The Board has power to make rules and regulations to govern the action of the Board, and to provide by such regulations for the appointment of committees to which it may delegate its authority and powers for the accomplishment of the duties imposed upon it.

Secretary of the Board and his Duties.

9. The secretary shall keep his office in the city of Montreal, and perform the duties imposed upon him by this act or prescribed by the board.

He must keep a register of the proceedings of the Board, and as far as possible place himself in communication with other boards of health whether provincial, local or federal, health officers, municipal councils and other public bodies, with a view of collecting and spreading abroad useful ideas upon public health.

He shall also keep a register in which he enters all reports from local boards respecting the causes of contagious diseases.

He shall notify municipal councils to appoint health officers or local boards of health in their municipalities.

He prepares the annual report upon vital statistics of the Province, and performs all the other duties and functions respecting vital or other statistics which may be assigned to him by the board.

Inquiries into the causes of Contagious Diseases.

10. When deemed necessary, the Board may send its secretary or one or more of its members to any place in the Province to inquire into the causes of any particular endemic, epidemic or contagious disease or into the causes of mortality.

Such inquiry may be made by sworn depositions or in any manner in which the committee or secretary making the inquiry deems necessary; and in the case of an inquiry under oath, the secretary or any member of the Board present may administer such oath.

Miscellaneous.

11. The Lieutenant-Governor may, when he issues a proclamation under the provisions of chapter 38 of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, respecting the preservation of public health, by such proclamation declare that the Provincial Board of Health established by this act, shall be the central board of health under the said chapter 38.

12. Whenever any householder ascertains that any person within his household has small pox, diphtheria, cholera, typhoid fever, scarlatina or glanders, or any other disease dangerous to the public health, he shall immediately give notice thereof to the local board of health or to the health officer of the municipality in which he resides, whose duty it will be to report to the Provincial Board of Health, the existence of such diseases in their district.

13. Whenever any physician ascertains that any person whom he is called upon to visit is infected with small pox cholera, diphtheria, typhoid fever, scarlatina, or glanders, or other disease dangerous to public health, such physician shall immediately give notice thereof to the local board of health or health officers or the mayor of the municipality in which such diseased person may be.

14. When small-pox, diphtheria, cholera, typhoid fever, scarlatina, glanders or other contagious disease exists in any municipality, the board of health of such municipality shall immediately use all possible means to prevent the disease from spreading, and shall give prompt public notice of infected places or houses by such means as it deems most effective for the common safety.

15. Whosoever wilfully obstructs any person acting under the authority or employed in the execution of this act, or wilfully violates any regulation issued by the Provincial Board of Health under this act, or neglects or refuses to comply with such regulations or with the requirements of the law in any matter whatsoever, shall be liable for every such offence to a penalty not exceeding twenty dollars, to be recovered by any person before two justices of the peace.

16. The act 49-50 Victoria, chapter 38 is hereby repealed ; but such repeal shall not affect the existence of Provincial Board of Health as now constituted which shall continue to exist under the name given to it by this act, neither shall it affect the appointments, rules and regulations made and every thing done up to present time in virtue thereof, all which shall continue to exist and remain in force until otherwise determined under this act.